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Katy All the Way

THE FIRST RAILS to enter Texas from the north were those of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Company. Known from its inception in 1870 as the "Katy,"* it became one of the most influential factors in the development of the great Southwest. Its first years were plagued by the remnants of Quantrill's guerrillas, renegade bands of Creeks, Chocktaws, Cherokees, and Chickasaws, and battles with rival railroads. There followed a period of organized train robberies. Nevertheless, it proved an immediate bonanza for its backers: August Belmont,† J. Pierpont Morgan, Levi P. Morton, John D. Rockefeller, Levi Parsons, and George Denison. By 1889, through acquisitions and building, the line extended north to Kansas City, and by 1903 its southern terminal lay in the mission city of San Antonio. With its track to Houston and Galveston, the company realized its visionary goal of through rail service from Junction City, Kansas City, and St. Louis to

*Its stock exchange symbol was "K-T."

†August Belmont (the first) married Caroline Perry, Calbraith Perry Rodgers's great aunt, the daughter of Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry.